

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DOTE-00 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 /130 W

----- 050681

R 161430Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO USDAO BLANTYRE

SECSTATE WASHDC 2537

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USDAO PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USDAO LISBON

USDAO LONDON

USDAO OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MPX, MZ

SUBJECT: BLANTYRE REPORT OF ATTACK ON BLANTYRE/BEIRA

RAIL LINE

REF: USDAO BLANTYRE DTD 151440Z MAY 74

1. APPRECIATE USDAO BLANTYRE REPORTING OF FRELIMO ATTACKS ON BLANTYRE/BEIRA RAIL LINE WHICH ESPECIALLY VALUABLE WHEN INCLUDING INFORMATION FROM MALAWI SOURCES UNAVAILABLE HERE.

2. HOWEVER, WOULD GUARD AGAINST DRAWING SPECULATIVE CONCLUSION SUCH AS THAT IN FIRST SENTENCE UNDER "COMMENT" IN REFTEL TO EFFECT THAT "INCIDENT SEEMS TO DEMONSTRATE FRELIMO INTENTION TO INTENSIFY ARMED STRUGGLE". FRELIMO HAS FOR YEARS BEEN DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO INTENSIFY STRUGGLE. IT HAS REPEATED THIS DECLARATION AS PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO NEW JUNTA'S FIRST EFFORTS TO OPEN CONTACT WITH FRELIMO, AND WILL DOUBTLESS KEEP ON REPEATING IT UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS
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ACTUALLY START. CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF OVERALL GUERRILLA

WAR PICTURE HERE DOES NOT SUPPORT THEORY OF GENERAL INTENSIFICATION OF ARMED STRUGGLE ON MOZAMBIQUE-WIDE BASIS, ALTHOUGH IT IS TRUE THAT GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES HAVE SPREAD SOUTHWARD IN BEIRA AND VILA PEREIRA DISTRICTS AND, FOR BRIEF PERIODS, INTENSIFIED AS WELL IN PARTS OF THOSE DISTRICTS, E.G. SENARICA IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE. HOWEVER, AT SAME TIME FRELIMO ACTIVITIES HAVE DECLINED SOMEWHAT IN TETE, NIASSA, AND CABO DELGADO DISTRICTS.

3. EVEN IF FRELIMO WANTED TO INTENSIFY ACTIVITIES, IT WOULD TAKE LONGER FOR THIS INTENTION TO BE TRANSLATED INTO FACT THAN THE FEW WEEKS THAT HAVE ELAPSED SINCE EVENTS OF APRIL 25, DUE TO COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS AND LOGISTICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH HANDICAP FRELIMO EFFORTS. HENCE, I TEND TO ACCEPT VIEW OF PORTUGUESE MILITARY THAT WHATEVER FRELIMO'S INTENTIONS MAY BE IN RESPONSE TO PRESENT EFFORTS OF JUNTA TO NEGOTIATE, THEIR MILITARY STRATEGY AND TACTICS HAVE NOT YET SHOWN CORRESPONDING CHANGE.
VAN OSS

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